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Message Text

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PAGE 01 JAKART 05418 260949Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
/066 W
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R 260812Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8371
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, OVIP, PP, ID
SUBJECT: PNG MEDIA MINISTER TO JAKARTA

1. THE MINISTER OF MEDIA OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA, TOM KORAEA, AND PARTY VISITED JAKARTA APRIL 20-25 TO GAIN FIRSTHAND KNOWLEDGE OF THE STATE OF THE MEDIA ART IN INDONESIA AND TO EXPLORE POSSIBILLITIES OF INCREASING BILATERAL COOPERATION IN THE INFORMATION FIELD. AS AN OFFICIAL GUEST OF THE INDONESIAN DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION, KORAEA TOURED A NUMBER OF MEDIA FACILITIES IN THE JAKARTA AREA INCLUDING TELEVISION STATIONS, THE PALAPA SATELLITE GROUND STATION, THE ANTARA NEWS AGENCY AND RADIO/TELEVISION ASSEMPLY PLANTS.

2. DURING APRESS CONFERENCE PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE, KORAEA ACKNOWLEDGED INDONESIA'S PROGRESS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF MASS MEDIA FACILITIES AND EXPRESSED THE CONVICTION
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PAGE 02 JAKART 05418 260949Z

THAT SOME OF THE STEPS TAKEN BY INDONESIA IN THIS FIELD "COULD BE COPIED (BY PNG) BECAUSE OF THE SIMILARITIES BETWEEN THE TWO STATES."

3. OF SOME POLITICAL NOTE, INDONESIAN INFORMATION MINISTER ALI MURTOPO, AFTER SEEING KORAEA OFF AT HALIM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, RESPONDED TO PRESS QUERIES ON A RUMORED UPRISING

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IN IRIAN JAYA AND RELATED OPM ACTIVITIES. MURTOPO DENIED THAT AN UPRISING HAD OCCURRED AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT IN IRIAN JAYA AND, INSTEAD, DESCRIBED IT AS "A TRIBAL WAR WHICH IS BEING EXPLOITED BY CERTAIN SIDES." THE BORDER CROSSINGS BY VARIOUS TRIBAL GROUPS, HOWEVER, ARE NOMADIC IN NATURE AND HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH "ORGANIZATIONS," MURTOPO DECLARED. HE ALSO DISCLOSED THAT THE PNG "HAD EXPRESSED ITS WILLINGNESS TO TAKE FIRM ACTION AGAINST SYMPATHIZERS OF THE OPM WHO CROSSED THE BORDER INTO ITS TERRITORY." MURTOPO ADDED, HOWEVER, HE WAS INFORMED THAT THOSE CROSSING THE BORDER "WOULD ALSO BE GIVEN JOBS BY THE PNG IF THEY ASKED FOR IT." ACCORDING TO MURTOPO, KORAEA GAVE HIS ASSURANCES THAT THE PNG WOULD GIVE "COMPLETE ATTENTION" TO NEWS REPORTS ON THE OPM TO MAKE SURE THEY WERE NOT SLANTED. IN HIS CONCLUDING REMARKS, HE ANNOUNCED THAT THE PNG FOREIGN MINISTER WOULD BE VISITING INDONESIA IN MAY.

4. IN A BRIEF DISCUSSION ON APRIL 22, A FOREIGN DEPARTMENT SOURCE TOLD EMBOFF THAT, WHILE HE HAD NOT YET RECEIVED CONFIRMATION, HE FELT CERTAIN THAT THE GOI RAISED WITH KORAEA OPM'S RECENT ANNOUNCEMENT OF A "PROVISIONAL CABINET" THAT INCLUDED SEVERAL PERSONS KNOWN TO BE RESIDING IN PNG.
MASTERS

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TAGS: PEPR, OVIP, SOPN, PP, ID, (KORAEA, TOM)
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20 Mar 2014
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